

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~removing~~ replacing at least one of a plurality of removable linear laser diode bars ~~from~~ of a laser diode array, comprising:

accessing a removable linear laser diode bar within the laser diode array, wherein the laser diode array comprises the plurality of removable linear laser diode bars and a plurality of spacers with each removable linear laser diode bar being disposed between a respective pair of spacers;

slideably removing the removable linear laser diode bar from between the respective pair of spacers in the laser diode array without breaking a mechanical connection between the removable linear laser diode bar and the respective pair of spacers; ~~and~~

maintaining a predetermined spaced apart relationship between the respective pair of spacers to facilitate subsequent insertion of a replacement linear laser diode bar;

slideably inserting and securing the replacement linear laser diode bar between the respective pair of spacers without creation of a mechanical connection therebetween; and

electrically activating the replacement linear laser diode bar while the replacement linear laser diode bar remains secured between the pair of spacers without the creation of a mechanical connection therebetween.

2. (Currently amended) The method for ~~removing~~ replacing at least one removable linear laser diode bar according to claim 1, wherein accessing the removable linear laser diode bar comprises opening a housing in which the laser diode array is disposed prior to slideably removing the removable linear laser diode bar.

3. (Currently amended) The method for ~~removing~~ replacing at least one removable linear laser diode bar according to claim 2, wherein the laser diode array is immersion cooled, and wherein the method further comprises at least partially draining a liquid coolant from the housing prior to opening the housing.

4. (Currently amended) The method for ~~removing~~ replacing at least one removable linear laser diode bar according to claim 1, wherein slideably removing the removable linear laser diode bar from between the respective pair of spacers comprises applying a force to the removable linear laser bar in a direction away from the plurality of spacers.

5. (Currently amended) The method for ~~removing~~ replacing at least one removable linear laser diode bar according to claim 4, wherein applying the force comprises overcoming a frictional force between the removable linear laser diode bar and the respective pair of spacers.